

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus connected to a server apparatus and a client computer via a network, said image forming apparatus comprising an image forming unit for image formation, and having a ~~normal~~-standby mode, and ~~an reduced power consumption~~-energy-saving mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the ~~normal~~-standby mode, wherein waiting time to restart image formation from the standby mode is shorter than that from the energy-saving mode, and said image forming apparatus further comprising:

a detecting device that periodically detects a status of the image forming apparatus;

~~a communication device that communicates with the server apparatus~~
a receiving device that receives from the client computer an inquiry about a status of the image forming apparatus; and

a first control device configured to respond, in a case where the inquiry is received by said receiving device when the image forming apparatus is not in the energy-saving mode, by sending the status detected by said detecting device to the client computer, while in a case where said image forming apparatus is to shift to the energy-saving mode, said first control device transmits the detected status and an agency request command to

the server apparatus and thereafter controlling itself to shift to a halt state, wherein, after receiving the agency request, the server apparatus responds to the inquiry from the client computer on behalf of said first control device that causes said communication device to transmit to the server apparatus an agency request command for requesting the server apparatus to respond to a status request, on behalf of the image forming apparatus, and a latest status of the image forming apparatus detected by said detecting device, when the image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

a second control device configured to output to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state, in a case where there is any change between a latest status among the statuses detected by said detecting device and the status detected when the image forming apparatus is to shift to the energy-saving mode while the image forming apparatus is in the energy-saving mode,

wherein said first control device transmits the latest status to the server apparatus, after resuming from the halt state responding to the command output by said second control device, and thereafter controls itself to shift back to the halt state
said control device is responsive to detection of a change in the status of the image forming apparatus by said detecting device in the reduced power consumption mode, for causing the image forming apparatus to temporarily return to the normal standby mode, and after causing said communication device to transmit the changed status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus, causing the image forming apparatus to again shift to the reduced power consumption mode.

13. (new): An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the received inquiry is transmitted to said second control device when the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode.

14. (new): An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said second control device monitors the detected status at a predetermined time intervals to determine whether or not there is any change in the detected status after the image forming apparatus shifts to the sleep mode.

15. (new): An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first control device outputs to said second control device a first signal indicating that the status of the image forming apparatus is changed from the energy saving mode to the standby mode, and said second control device transfers the detected status when receiving the first signal output from said first control device.

16. (new): An image forming apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a transfer device configured to output a second signal to said second control device when receiving via the network a request for causing the image forming apparatus to restart from the energy saving mode, wherein said second control device outputs to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state when receiving the second signal when the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode.